

WCTEP Annual Meeting  
September 10, 2015  
Marshfield Holiday Inn

Committee Member attendance: Geriann Albers, John Olson, Mike Widner, Bryce Larson, John Irwin, Scott Zimmermann, Junior Prudlick

Other attendees: Allen Nickel, Larry Meyer, Arnold Groehler, Dennis Brady, Chris Bezio, Mike Kortenhof, Jared Kortenhof, Jon Daul, Steve Hoffman, Hayley Trzinski, Ava Boswell, Ethan Graves, Tessa Schaub, Timothy Deering, Nicole Erickson, Melanie Guziec

Meeting called to order by Geriann Albers at 7:00 PM.

1. Update – WTA Statewide Coordinator. Bryce Larson. As of Aug. 31, 854 students at in-person courses, class number similar to last year; Learn to Trap classes becoming more popular; held successful new instructor orientation and instructor meeting in Peshtigo in August; teacher training was cancelled for this year. Newsletter being developed and sent out. Also conducted FFA State exam in April. Rosters coming in on time and things are now falling in place well.
2. Update – Correspondence. Mike Widner. 157 compared to app. 300 last two years....maybe 250 – 275 for the year. Funds are getting tight due to fewer folks in the system. Prior has only asked for postage, but now needs reimbursement for other expenses. Will send to Steve Van for reimbursement.
3. Update – Wolf. John Irwin. Doing nothing this year due to changes in wolf status. Working on an instructor outline. Might this time be best used to prepare for future seasons? Geriann is about ½ done with the wolf education manual and her replacement should pick up and complete.
4. Update – Fur Schools; NCN.
5. Update – DNR Statewide Coordinator. Geriann. Leaving! Will work with new assistant. Trapping and Furbearer Management in North America Booklets ordered (\$10,000 = 15,000 copies). Teacher training cancelled due to no advertisement sent out (too busy). Wolf trapper ed manual moving forward, but more to do.
6. Budget status. Handed out balance sheet, showing a balance of app. \$98,000.00 going in to fiscal year 2016.
7. New Licensing System. Should make for easier use for trapper education, including being an instructor and conducting a background check. Will be able to track junior instructors and assistant instructors and their volunteer hours. Only glitch is we can't add anything in the month of February, 2016 as it's when the data move will occur. New system should make the class order for packets automatic.
8. Background checks. New system will make this much easier.
9. Should we do similar to other classes where it's done automatically every 5 years? Committee agrees we should. How do we handle those instructors that become inactive – how are we contacted of this through the department, and how

do we contact them – district TE coordinators? Geriann to send around the instructor orientation guidelines prior to leaving.

10. New system of training videos might be of value to the TE program, especially for instructors.
11. WTA instructor membership requirement? Shawn did this, so Geriann took a look at the membership role and did locate a few which Geriann will send to Bryce. Bryce will take care of this task.
12. Packet development. Opportunities, Inc. - “stuffs” folders/packets. About \$0.60/folder. Geriann to ask for a price quote for stuffing wildcards into packets as well. Minus regs, patches, etc.
13. Instructor appreciation – about six ideas were generated which Geriann will send to Bryce, but the new DNR person will have to take this on.
14. MOU updates. Minor edits but does include “test out” procedures for online or correspondence students. How do they sign up for a test out date – this will be left up to how we build the final program, which might include an email or phone call to these students. Should we include this as a “What’s New” in the 2016 regs – for implementation in 2017? And anyone that’s in the program in 2016 must then “test out” by the end of 2016. Will need extra copies of the assessment so instructors can do the paperwork and then hand to them. Suggestion is to come up with a simple form/assessment that can be sent to each district with ample copies. Under the new license system there will be a separate site for district test-out dates/locations. **NEED TO GET THE WORD OUT ON THIS NEW REQUIREMENT – ESPECIALLY FOR CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS. NEED TO ADD THIS INTO OUR REGS AND INTO OUR WEBSITE LOCATIONS.** Might suggest to the districts to have their test-out dates completed prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>. New assistant will follow-up on this topic.
15. Chapter guidance. Geriann built a suggested outline showing how much time each chapter should take. Some chapters are more important than others as well. Some folks are complaining about the length of the manual and the amount of time it takes to read and answer all the chapter questions. Junior has a system for his instructors to use in keeping them focused and moving through the manual. Mike Widner made a few adjustments to his class by shortening stakes/earth anchors to 6”; weakening coil springs for the young kids; having all instructors show the same sets (rat set/dirt hole set/body grip/etc.). No instructor has to do the same demo multiple times, thus forgetting steps. Shortcuts made for one of his best classes ever.
16. BMPs Update. All furbearer BMPs are complete in the lower 48. Arctic fox is now complete as of last week.
17. Accessibility needs? Had our first ever request for a sign language interpreter for a trapper education class. Expensive - \$1,700/day. Might we need to budget for this? What about folks in wheelchairs or missing limbs? Obviously instructors need to use discretion and work with these individuals.
18. Mentored trapping update. Junior suggests it’s in the works. Looks good.
19. Reducing incidental take? Discussed the topic of the Spooner Fish Hatchery fence topic. There wasn’t support for future use of these funds for such use, as

- this is a much larger issue that includes TU/otter management. Continue with the body grip trigger study being conducted in Rhinelander between WS and SS.
20. Exit Summary – Geriann – Trapper Education. Enjoyed working with all of you. Tons of changes made over the past three years and proud to be part of it.
  21. Next Meeting. Friday, March 19 at Stoney Creek Inn, Wausau.
  22. Other Business. Three key watch words: “certified, traceability, social responsibility. Starting this next year some organizations will not purchase wild furs unless a “code of standards” are in place. Western coyotes will be individually chipped to identify exactly where they originate. This will be a worldwide standard. How do we certify that our fur qualifies? Via the BMP program. Began with certification of ranch fox (raised in certain size cage, fed certain ways, etc.).
  23. Question on having a trapper camp? Of course a person can.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM

Rough Minutes by John Olson